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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 AID-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
EB-08 PA-01 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1420
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA
USMTMDET RIYADH SA

REVIEWED BY P Schmelzer DATE 7/2/85
RDS [ ] or XDS [ ] EXT. DATE
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E.O. RSE EXCTNS MARKINGS [ ]
DECLASSIF. [ ] RELEASABLE [✓]
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E.O. N/A
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
SUBJECT: SAG REACTION TO F-15 EQUIPMENT STATEMENTS

REF: FBIS LD291924

1. THE EXPECTED SAUDI OFFICIAL REACTION TO USG STATEMENTS ON THE F-15 ENHANCEMENT QUESTION CAME THROUGH SAUDI PRESS AGENCY CHANNELS OCTOBER 29.

2. THAT REACTION, AS BROADCAST AT RIYADH (REF) AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE VERNACULAR AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS, WAS AS FOLLOWS (BROADCAST VERSION):

QUOTE: THE KINGDOM HAS EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT WITH REGARD TO A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. PRESIDENT CARTER, IN WHICH HE REFUSES TO SUPPLY THE KINGDOM WITH ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE F-15 AIRCRAFT AT A TIME WHEN POSITIVE DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE ON THIS ISSUE.

COMMENTING ON THIS STATEMENT, AN OFFICIAL SA'UDI SOURCE SAID THAT THE KINGDOM WILL WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. ELECTIONS TO ASCERTAIN THE FINAL ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE.

THE SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT IF THE KINGDOM DOES NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT WILL KNOCK ON ALL DOORS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY MEANS NEEDED TO REALIZE THE DEFENSE OF THE HOMELAND. THE SOURCE REAFFIRMED THAT THE KINGDOM'S RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ARE NOT CONFINED TO ANY ONE COUNTRY. END QUOTE. PLACKE